Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



HII Hbaard

for the ANNUAL MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION Saturday 14TH JULY from 10.30am - St Laurence Church & Ark

JULY 2018

Online at www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/monthly-magazine

St Laurence Church Alvechurch

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Holy Communion

Book of Common Prayer Communion Service, will take place on the 2nd <u>and</u> 4th Sundays of the month. On the other Sundays there will be an 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Communion Service at St Leonard's in Beoley

9.30am Family Service

with Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday and Baptisms on the 4th Sunday

11.15am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Evensong

On the 4th Sunday of the month at 6pm there will be Sacred Space, a quieter more reflective space for worship

On the 2nd Sunday of the month (4th in January), there will be a United Service (Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green), rotating between Alvechurch Baptist Church, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Rowney Green Shared Church and ourselves

At Rowney Green Shared Church
9.30am Methodist/Anglican Service

DAILY SERVICE

9.00am Monday to Friday in St Laurence Church

ORGANISATIONS

Sunday Club - Sundays during term time 9.30am Church & Ark (445 1854)

Choir - Thursdays at 7.45pm in Church (445 3569)

Bellringers - Sundays at 10.45am Tuesday Practice at 7.30pm (01527 64077)

Women's Fellowship - 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm in Tanyard Lane Community Centre (445 2125)

Mum's the Word - Thursdays 9.30am to 11am in The Ark (sarah100work@gmail.com)

Tiny Tots Service - 10.15am 1st Thursday of the month

Ark Café - Thursdays during term time at 12.15pm (447 7017)

Home Group - Thursdays 7.30pm at the Coach House (445 2547)

THE ARK

Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955

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Was anybody else stunned by the passion and intensity of The Reverend Michael Curry who spoke at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding? So wonderfully un- British; no wonder all the British guests were looking so awkward. I think it is just possible that God is not British — a shocking thought I know but unfortunately true.

The passion displayed by Bishop Curry appears to be reflected throughout the bible. King David danced, half dressed in the street, overcome by wonder at the awesomeness of God. David's wife was disgusted and I bet some of his people didn't know where to look either, but David knew he was beloved by God, even after he made dreadful, selfish mistakes and God blessed him for his passionately intense response to him.

God doesn't seem to want stiff upper lips or a casual discussion about the weather. He wants to share all our joy, all our rage and anger, all our pain, without anything held back. Think of the elderly father of the prodigal son who ran to meet his errant returning boy. He didn't just wait, calmly, he ran and flung his arms around him shouting his joy and planning a feast. Like David, he let all the passion out, disapproval or laughter from neighbours watching utterly irrelevant in the moment of shared joy with God.

Jesus, his life the greatest love story in the bible, wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. He didn't hold anything back, he wept in front of everyone (why do we fear so much to weep in front of others, we have the

Philippa Brakes writes...

greatest example of gentle strength to inspire us). Jesus didn't just like his disciples Peter and John, he loved them. He doesn't just like us – he loves us with such a passion that unless we meet him with equal passion, his utterly giving, agonizing, publicly humiliating sacrifice of his life becomes meaningless.

The woman who washed Jesus' feet wept tears of sorrow and humility to the embarrassment of those watching at the meal, all on their best behaviour, and Jesus honoured her genuine openness and willingness to give everything uncaring of judgemental eyes watching. I could go on – the Song of Solomon demonstrates that the passionate intimacy we can experience in marriage is the same love that God is offering us. Remember the joy of getting to know someone who is fascinated by you and wants to spend more and more time with you – yes – like that!

Romans 8 verses 38-39 says "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God." Wow, that's really being loved. Nothing can get in its way.

Passionate love doesn't come naturally – especially if we are British, but it comes through passionately seeking God by walking and talking with him daily. I confess I constantly need help with that; thank God for other Christians. We can support each other in our blundering attempts, learning, as a toddler learns to walk, how to remove the layers of our social conditioning and "let it all go" with God who is a very safe audience because he will never laugh at us, only love us more.

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Hillside at Alvechurch WI

Pat McDonagh writes...

The speaker, David Chatterley, took us all down memory lane with his fascinating collection of Teddy Bears. He had bears dating back to the 1800's, some worth a considerable amount of money. He brought every bear to life. Some ladies brought their bears to the meeting and these special guests were warmly welcomed. One bear turned out to be older than thought, one bear was quite valuable but loved too much to be sold and one bear confused David until he was told it was made by a member

In July some members are going on the County trip to Kew Gardens and others will represent Hillside in the group quiz.

On JULY 4th

The members of Hillside at Alvechurch W.I. are looking forward to celebrating our 50th birthday meeting. This year that Worchester Federation of the Women's Institutes celebrates a 100 years a very special year. Members from the other local W.Is have been invited to join us. A very Happy Birthday to all the members.

Praying With The Spirit

Sometimes when I pray, I utter the words, But do not feel or think them.

Sometimes when I pray, I utter the words, Thinking of what I say, but not feeling.

Sometimes when I pray, I utter the words, And both think and feel what I say.

An act of will cannot make me feel,
Nor stop my mind from wandering.
An act of will can only make me utter,
So I shall utter the words,
And let the spirit do the rest,
Guiding my mind and my heart as He wills.

From Gordon Parsons (Author unknown)

Letter from Archdeacon of Dudley

Frequent reports of how lonely we are, across all ages and nations, have dominated the news for months. We live in lonely times. Increasing numbers of elderly people are living alone for longer. Many young people describe acute senses of loneliness. People are lonely in both in our cities and in rural areas, so much so that loneliness is now considered a public-health issue, with some commentators declaring that "the world is suffering from an epidemic of loneliness."

Recent studies assert that loneliness is hazardous to our health, disrupting sleep, increasing stress and inflammation, and weakening immune systems. It's also associated with cognitive decline, heart disease, and greater frailty later on in life. With a significant effect on mortality rates, loneliness is now considered a public health threat, potentially more harmful than obesity, and as bad as smoking. It's especially ironic that, as we are globally connected to the worldwide village through social media, we are somehow more socially isolated than ever.

As church communities, we can and really should be part of the solution, reaching out to those who are alone and inviting them into the family of God. During the recent archdeacons visitations, I heard heart-warming stories of churches signing up as 'places of welcome', offering cake, coffee and chatter sessions, or knit and natter gatherings. Community is being built as people experience the loving welcome of church members not just on Sundays, but, as our church buildings are used as places of connection and outreach, during the week too.

Saint Paul says in his letter to the Corinthian church that 'whoever loves God is known by God'. (1 Corinthians 8:3) As his people, we can find security and comfort in the knowledge that we are never alone, God knows us and sees our comings and goings (Psalm 139), even if we feel alone and that no-one else cares. But God's promise to place the lonely in families is fulfilled when we, as his body on earth, reach out to those who are alone for whatever reason, loving and welcoming them, listening, and enabling them too, to experience being known by God, and cared for by his people.

Nikki Groarke Archdeacon of Dudley

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The Ark Cafe



The menu for July is as follows:

July 5th - Mediterranean Chicken July 12th - Assorted Salads July 19th - Closed July 26th Salads and Cold Desserts

On Thursdays in August, our menu will be Salads and Cold Desserts and we will be starting hot lunches again from September.

We look forward to your continued support over the Summer period.

Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

We will not be holding our usual monthly meeting at The Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month, but we are pleased to advise everyone about several events that are taking place in July.

On Wednesday, 4th July there is an afternoon visit to Morton Hall Gardens, Morton Hall Lane, Holberrow Green B96 6SJ. Visit includes escorted tour round the gardens plus afternoon tea - cost is £10.00 per person. You will need to make your own way there by 2.00pm. If you are interested please contact Janet Barnett on 01527 69399. On 18th July a visit has been arranged to Broughton Grange Gardens and Ball Colegrave Nursery, Nr. Banbury (OX15 5DS) – The coach departs Rowney Green Village Hall 10.30am, depart for home approx 5.30pm. Cost £26 includes transport and gratuities, and entrance to both venues. There is a cafe on site. There are still a few places available.

With regard to the Main Show which takes place on Saturday, 1st September 2018 you will find the schedule available on our website -

www.rowneygreenhorticuluralsociety.co.uk, so please take a look and decide how many entries you would like to make.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

At our last meeting before the summer break an interesting talk was given by Jo Roche, who told us about the history of Abberley Hall and Clock Tower, near Great Witley, Worcestershire.

In July and August we have two coach trips, both fully booked. One is to the museum at Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire, and the other to Tyntesfield, a National Trust house in Somerset.

HUT CLEAN - An important date for members' diaries is our annual hut clean! This will be on Wednesday 29th August 2018, at 10am.

To contact AHS, please telephone our chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445 5955.

Organ Recital A Great Success

Those attending the organ recital on the 12th May were treated to a truly virtuoso performance by the organist Keith Hearnshaw, aided by some very clever visual effects.

A huge thank you for all who assisted in making the evening such a success. The sum of £550.00 was raised towards the Church Restoration Fund.

A footnote for all the trad jazz fans out there - Sauce City Jazz will be returning to the Ark on Friday, 19th October, so make a note in your diaries. *Margaret Haste - Organiser*

St Laurence Women's Fellowship



Jill Woolley writes...

At our meeting in May, David Hill told us about the Island he bought in the Outer Hebrides and showed delightful pictures of the wild-life found there.

On July 17th we will meet at the Barnt Green Cricket Club for a Summer Buffet lunch at 12.30pm.

At our meeting on July 25th Dr. Colin Harris will tell us about 101 British Curiosities.

Our Annual Charity Tea will be held in The Ark on Tuesday August 21st in aid of the Motor Neurone Association. Please come and support us.

We meet in The Tanyard Centre at 2pm and will be pleased to welcome you.

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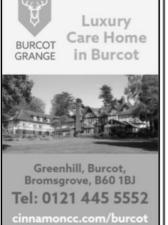
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Taking Funerals Seriously

Sam Setchell - Communications Officer writes...

About one third of funerals are taken by CofE ministers, but this figure is falling; we are losing our 'market share'.

These days, many people are opting for (or being steered towards) a 'non-religious' funeral, perhaps because the deceased did not go to church. But CofE research has shown that most mourners want a funeral service that is both personal and hopeful in the context of a supporting, caring community. These are elements which the Church – and perhaps only the Church – can and does provide.

So maybe we are underselling ourselves? In times past, we waited for the phone to ring for our services; now maybe we need to be more vocal in the 'market place' and advertise the especially good and even unique things that the Church's funeral ministry offers.

Some of these themes were explored in a diocesan day workshop held in May. Now a small Diocesan 'Funerals' Group' (Nick Wright, Alex Vaccaro; Alex French and Andy Hewines) is seeking to help our churches and deaneries respond imaginatively. One new step is to ensure that we have enough funeral ministers to readily respond to requests from funeral directors. It has been agreed that suitable ALMs may now be encouraged to add to their training in order to become 'Authorised Funeral Ministers'. But all church members have a role to play: encourage people you know to make their funeral wishes clear to their families, and remind them of the good and important things that only the Church's ministry can provide for their families when they are bereaved.

Please pray for all those who lead funerals in the Diocese and if any of these matters are important to you or your church, do get in touch with the Funerals Group through Nick Wright revnmwright@btinternet.com

The Old Piggery Charity Open Days

29th - 30th June and 1st July 2pm - 6pm

Once again Penny is opening her lovely gardens in aid of various charities. This garden is a real gem and right on the doorstep.

ENTRANCE £12 - Price includes sandwiches and full cream tea

Plants for sale and Tombola

The Old Piggery, Weights Lane, Redditch B97 6RQ
Follow the signs from the bottom of Weights Lane and the new
roundabout on the A441

This event is in support of Dementia UK, Help for Heroes and Cancer Research UK

Alvechurch WI

Pam Horsfield writes...

Our meeting began with a welcome from Julie, then we were saddened to hear that Margaret Guy had passed away. She was much loved and respected by friends in our WI, who remembered all the sports and activities she had taken part in over the years.

Maria reminded us of all the county activities we can go to later in our centenary year....lunch with the speaker, a shopping trip to Chester and of course our Carol Service in Worcester Cathedral.

At home, Alvechurch WI is hosting the Group Quiz in the Village Hall on Monday 21st July; which we hope will be well supported.

Jean Collins then gave a very interesting report on her visit to Cardiff Arena for the AGM. It was good to hear about the singing of Jerusalem with hundreds of other, the voting for the resolution of 'Mental health matters' and about the speakers she enjoyed.

We have a visit to Coughton Court on Wednesday July 11th following a talk about it at our meeting two days before; plus a visit and tour around Churchfields Farm in Droitwich in August. Pam Parker has also arranged for us in August to see the Woodys at the Swan Theatre in Worcester, which we really enjoy.

Our speaker for the evening, Adrian James, was very good. His photos of Bodenham Arboretum were stunningly beautiful and skilful. His talk about Bodenham through the seasons was very interesting and much appreciated and we hope to see him again sometime.

Next month on Monday July 9th at 7:30pm in the Village Hall Les Evans will be talking about Coughton Court. Come and join us if you're interested. You'll be very welcome.

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Galatians 5:22-23

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The Midland Sinfonia

Friday 6 July 7.30pm

St Laurence Church, Alvechurch Season's Finale

Guest: Tim Gill principal cellist of the RPO

Boccherini – Symphony No.17 in A Haydn – Cello Concerto No.1 in C Strauss – Sextet from Capriccio Mozart – Symphony No.29

A Bromsgrove Festival concert

Tickets: on the door £14.50, in advance £13 from 'Gin & Pickles', The Square, Alvechurch or online at www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk FT students and schoolchildren accompanying an adult free. For more information: midlandsinfonia@gmail.com or 0121 447 7040

Parish Prayers

Prayers will be said in July at St Laurence Church for the residents of the following roads:

Withybed Lane – 1 July

Woodpecker Lane – 8 July

Altheston Close - 15 July

Alvechurch Road - 22 July

Aqueduct Lane - 29 July



Model Railway Exhibition

This will be our Thirteenth. Please come and support it in as many ways as you can.

The proceeds are for the Windows Fund.

Did you know that 60 years ago there was a station at Studley? Trains from Alvechurch stopped there, and some went on to Stratford or Evesham. Come and see what it looked like. We should have layouts in N gauge, 009, 00, and 0, and possibly something in between! We will have three demonstrators, and about 10 traders, from woollen things to bits for model railways of all types. There will be an 0 gauge test track, where you might be able to try out an old loco you found in the attic!!

Refreshments will be available all day.

From 10.30am - 2.00pm these will include bacon butties, (until we run out of bacon!) From 2.00pm - 4.00pm Afternoon Tea with delicious cakes will be the menu.

Please come. You may be surprised how well it all fits into the church and the Ark.



Congratulations Roger and Sue!

On Saturday May 19th the bells rang out for the wedding of Sue Phillips and Roger Wardle. Both the bride and groom worship at St. Laurence's, where the bride is a Lay Minister. The wedding day had begun with an informal breakfast at The Crown in Withybed for their close neighbours and that set the tone for the day.



They arrived for their wedding, together, in a blue VW camper van, driven by a friend, and were preceded into church by their 17 grandchildren, to the tune of Mairi's Wedding, sung by Alvechurch Community Choir, of which Sue and Roger are members.

The bride and groom were both dressed in bluebell blue and white, the church being predominately decorated with wild flowers of cow parsley, red campion and bluebells.

The service was conducted by Revd. Richard Bubbers, with a blessing being given by Bishop Alejandro Mesco from Peru. The Bishop and his wife, Doris, who have a long association with St. Laurence church and are personal friends of the bride, had flown over for the occasion.

At the end of the service the couple processed down the aisle followed by their grandchildren to the music of Bring Me Sunshine sung by the Community Choir, who had also performed during the signing of the register. The hymns and bible readings had been chosen by Sue and Roger to express their Christian faith and their commitment to each other.

The service was followed by a reception in The Ark for family and close friends, and on the following day by a lunch for their church community. The couple then left for a honeymoon in Ireland.



Flowers for JULY

	1 JULY	8 JULY	15 JULY	21 JULY	29 JULY
Sanctuary	Pat Parker & Gillian Sheppard		Lynda Wolstencroft		
Lady Chapel	Pat Parker & Gillian Sheppard		Lynda Wolstencroft		
In Memory of	Jim Parker		In memory of her mother Barbara Parsons		

An extra special request for help with the flower Rota this month. Following my surgery I am unable to look after the flowers in church for the next 6 - 8 weeks and am really praying that help will be offered. I have made sure that vases are available to use and so I am not asking or expecting anything more than we would all do with a bunch of flowers in our own homes. Offers of help will be so much appreciated.

Ann Thurrell 0121 447 7668 / email : annthurrell@hotmail.co.uk



Wedding

Those whom God has joined together

19 May Roger Wardle and Sue Phillips
 26 May Sam Williams and Charlotte Wood
 2 June David Nicholson and Eleanor McVeigh



Baptisms

We welcome you into the Lord's family

27 May Daisy Wolstencroft-Hall

17 June Jack Hammond and Ffion Treasure



Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

30 May Robert Coley
6 June Eileen Grace Ross
19 June Jacqueline Poyner

Who's who

Rector Revd Richard Bubbers, Priest-in-charge, School Lane, 445 1087

stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

Licensed Lay Ministers Mr Dick Russell, 2 Gothic Cottages, Radford Rd, 445 3083

Ms Sue Phillips, Withybed Green, 445 3620

Mrs Helen Ayling, "Tarncroft", Hewell Lane, Vigo, 445 6176

Authorised Lay Ministers Mrs Helena Allen

Mr Martin Allen, 445 5605

Mrs Philippa Brakes, 56 Callow Hill Road, 445 3983

Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547

Mr Michael Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451

Mrs Annette Thomas, 8 Snake Lane, 445 5180

Churchwardens Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547

Mr Mick Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451

Deputy Wardens Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077

Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569

Mrs Alison Smith, 12 Hollington Road, 447 7293

Mr Andy Notley, 445 5653

Mr Roger Wardle, Withybed Green, 445 3620

PCC Secretary Mrs Lysandra Notley, lysnotley@icloud.com, 07989327043

Parish Safeguarding Officer Mrs Sue Lambert, 7 Cygnet Close, B48 7PX, 07769110608

PCC Treasurer Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, Alvechurch, B48 7LP

Organist & Choirmaster Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569

Electoral Roll Officer Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, 445 4335

Tower Captain Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077

Singing Group Mrs Lynda Wolstencroft, 49 Hinton Avenue, 445 3212

Mum's the Word Mrs Sarah Linton, sarah100work@gmail.com

Flower Co-ordinator Mrs Ann Thurrell, Top Barn, Scarfield Hill, 447 7668

Women's Fellowship Mrs Jill Woolley, 111 Birmingham Road, 445 2125

Ark Booking Secretary) Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955

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Calendar for JULY



Sunday 1	2.00pm	The Old Piggery Charity Open Day: £12 - includes sandwiches and full cream tea: The Old Piggery, Weights Lane, Redditch B97 6RQ		
Wednesday 4	7.30pm	Hillside WI: 50th Anniversary meeting: The Ark		
Thursday 5	10.15am	Mums The Word: The Ark Tiny Tots Service: St Laurence Church: Sarah Linton Ark cafe: Mediterranean Chicken		
Friday 6	7.30pm	The Midland Sinfonia: Season's Finale Concert: A Bromsgrove Festival concert: St Laurence Church		
Monday 9	7.30pm	Alvechurch WI: Talk on Coughton Court: Alvechurch Village Hall		
Thursday 12		Mums The Word: The Ark Ark cafe: Assorted Salads		
Saturday 14 AUGUS		Annual Railway Exhibition: St Laurence Church and The Ark INE GOES TO PRESS Articles to thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk		
Thursday 19	9.30am	Mums The Word: The Ark No Ark Cafe today		
Monday 21	7.30pm	Alvechurch WI: Group Quiz: Alvechurch Village Hall		
Wednesday 24	2.00pm	Alvechurch Women's Fellowship: Speaker Dr Colin Harris: Talk on British Curiosities: Tanyard Centre Alvechurch		
Thursday 26		Mums The Word: The Ark (last one before summer break) Ark cafe: Salads and Cold Desserts		